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INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY Ethiopia
SUBJECT Imperial Ethiopian Army Garrison at
Harrar; Dispatch of Ethiopian
Troops to Ogaden

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1. It is reported that the garrison at Harrar, Ethiopia, was increased from 300 to 500 men in the middle of March 1948. This move was prompted by the recent demand on the part of the Harraris for independence.
2. A battalion of the Imperial Ethiopian Army, 300 or 400 men, was sent to Diredaau during the same period as a reinforcement to assist regular units in the event of increased activity on the part of Somalis or groups which seek local autonomy.
3. During the period 8 - 22 March small units of 10 or 12 former Patriots and Territorial Army soldiers have been leaving Addis Ababa overland for the Ogaden via Diredaau. On one occasion, the Emperor and the Crown Prince reviewed such a unit from the balcony of the Imperial Palace and gave them the Imperial blessing. These units may be planned as guerrilla units to be stationed along the tribal borders of the Somali and Galla people.

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